



Italian fashion designer Emilio Pucci (right) talks shop with Mrs. Sergio Fenoaltea (left), wife of the Italian ambassador; Mrs. Desmond Fitzgerald (center), and another Italian

designer, Antonelli of Rome, at a reception at the embassy last night for the visiting style setters, who will stage a benefit tomorrow for Children's Hospital.—Star Staff Photo.

Italian Designers Talk via Fashions

CPYRGHT By ELENI
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Language was no real barrier last night as six Italian designers talked about how delighted they were to be in Washington.

Marchese Emilio Pucci, a member of Parliament from Florence in Italy, who says he now has to design all the harder because of his "other job," speaks fluent English. Nearly all the others communicated equally as well, as members of the Italian embassy staff and their wives were pressed into instant translating units.

Balestra, Pucci, Antonelli, Litrico, Nora Aponte and Enzo are the six designers who will appear at the Children's Hospital benefit fashion show tomorrow in the Regency Ballroom of the Shoreham Hotel.

All were on hand last night as honored guests at a party held by Italian Ambassador and Mrs. Fenoaltea.

Four pretty Italian mannequins also will be on hand to show the designs (18 from each) from the latest showings in Milan, Florence, and Rome.

Signora Antonelli says "Italian designers are not strangers to the shores of America." Since World War II "they have believed in us and American women have been the magic touch," she said.

What's more, American women have not been fickle in their fashion where Italy has been concerned. "They have been faithful and loyal."

Marchese Pucci, who first put women into stretch pants, has come up with a new perfume that has yet to be

great extent. The perfume is called "Vivara." He defines it as smelling "of sun, sea, and salt." He says it is the first resort perfume.

Angelo Litrico is the one menswear designer represented in the troupe of Italian designers who are swinging around the country on similar benefit fashion tours. At the same time, many, like Pucci, Balestra and Aponte, are also tying in with various store promotions featuring their designs.

Litrico is the man who made 18 coats and 30 suits for Khrushchev. How did he first get into business in Rome? He went to the opera and actor Rossano Brazzi admired his dinner clothes, and wanted to know who had made them. He's also done His and Her designs for the famous,

Burton.

"But always the suit is 'classico'" he reassured us.

His new color for men is called "Cobaltic," and is in the blue family. Litrico likens himself more to a doctor than a designer. "The more contact you have with your patient the better you can prescribe for him," is his diagnosis.

Young Balestra, like nearly all the other designers in the world, is very aware of the ready-to-wear business in America and in Italy.

"It makes no sense today to have a few privileged people only having access to high fashion. I do not rate ready-to-wear as only being low-priced merchandise. Today it is high class, and very nice because it can be worn by more women."

Present at the cocktail

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party last night was Mrs. Desmond Fitzgerald, chairman of the Children's Hospital benefit. Mr. and Mrs. John A. Logan also were in the group.

Two wives of Italian embassy diplomats, Mrs. Frances Corrias and Mrs. Joseph Borgia, were thought to be models for the show, they were so striking.

Miss Carla P. Alessandro, niece of Dr. Bruno Vivona, visiting from Milan, was another case of mistaken identity with her special Italian flair for fashion and beauty.

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